

Appl. N . 09/919,748
Amdt. dated April 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 24, 2003

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented) A frame for a shelter structure, comprising:
a plurality of poles arranged in intersecting relationship with a plurality of pole crossings such that at least one four sided opening is formed having pole crossings defining two non-adjacent pairs of vertices and having sections of said poles defining sides thereof;
each of said poles having a first terminal end and a second terminal end;
each of said poles assuming a substantially arcuate shape under tension with said first and second terminal ends of each pole terminating in a common plane to thereby define an interior volume; and
a tension harness extending substantially diagonally across said opening and directly connecting a non-adjacent pair of vertices of said opening.

Claim 2 (original) A shelter structure comprising the frame of claim 1 and a membrane connected to at least some of said poles to substantially shelter said interior volume.

Claim 3 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein said poles are arranged to form a plurality of said four-sided openings.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The frame of claim 1 wherein said poles are arranged to define an interior volume that is substantially dome shaped.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The frame of claim 1 wherein said tension harness directly connects each pair of non-adjacent vertices.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The frame of claim 3 wherein said tension harness extends substantially diagonally across and directly connects a non-adjacent pair of vertices of each of a plurality of said openings.

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Claim 7 (previously presented) The frame of claim 3 wherein said tension harness extends substantially diagonally across and directly connects each pair of non-adjacent vertices of each of a plurality of said openings.

Claim 8 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein said poles are substantially flexible and resilient.

Claim 9 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein at least some pairs of intersecting poles are connected together near at least some of said pole crossings.

Claim 10 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein each pair of intersecting poles is connected together near each of the pole crossings.

Claim 11 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein a plurality of four-sided openings are formed, at least some of which are adjacent each other.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The frame of claim 11 wherein said tension harness connects between a non-adjacent pair of vertices of at least one pair of adjacent openings.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The frame of claim 11 wherein said tension harness connects between a non-adjacent pair of vertices of a plurality of pairs of adjacent openings.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The frame of claim 11 wherein said tension harness connects between a non-adjacent pair of vertices of all adjacent openings.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The frame of claim 11 having a tension harness connected between a non-adjacent pair of vertices of all diagonally adjacent openings.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The frame of claim 1 having a free end of said tension harness fastened to the common plane.

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Claim 17 (previously presented) The frame of claim 1 having the free ends of said tension harness fastened to the common plane.

Claim 18 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein said tension harness is constructed of low stretch material.

Claim 19 (original) The shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said tension harness is integrally formed with said membrane.

Claim 20 (original) The shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said tension harness is connected to said membrane at a plurality of points.